



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 17, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 28



KATIE BENSON & RIHS ORCHESTRA

Today Rock Island Rotary was treated to a great program by the Rock Island High School orchestra directed by Katie Benson (wife of our own James Benson). Any parent that has had a child learning a string instrument knows how difficult it is, particularly learning to play in tune with others. Rock Island students begin orchestra in 6th grade, so the high school students performing today have been at it for just 3 and at most 7 years. Yet the 15-person Rocky touring group played with precision, enthusiasm, and obvious enjoyment. The group is made up of students who are selected by tryout and are willing to devote their time outside of school with rehearsals being at 7am each Wednesday. They performed a mixture of classical to pop rock, starting with two selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*; and ending with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's *Christmas Eve/Sarajevo*. Rock Island Rotarian responded with a standing ovation for the group. Mrs. Benson invited Rotarians and their families to the Orchestra's winter concert at 7pm on February 23rd in the Rock Island High School Auditorium when 250 members of the orchestra program will perform. Thanks for a SUPER program!!

November - December Calendar

- Jan 17 - Quad City Water Project
Bud Phillis & Bob Swanson
- Jan 24 - TBA
- Jan 28 - Rotary Mobile Food Panty
Project
- Jan 31 - TBA
- Feb 7 - Sandy Koester Band and
Rotary Blood Drive
- Feb 14 - TBA
- Feb 21 - TBA
- Feb 28 - TBA





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Officers

Steve Morenz, President
Bruce Peterson, 1st VP
Sue Cassatt, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
John Phillips, Past President

Board Members

Dave Geenen
Jim Nordquist
Molly Shattuck
Al Metz
Tricia Barron
Angela Campbell
James Benson
Billy Puckett
Co-Sergeant at Arms
Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Program Chairs

2016-17

July – Aug: Kyle Vietti
Sept – Oct: Dave Geenen
Nov – Dec: Gary Rowe
Jan – Feb: John Wetzel
Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
May – June: Bob Swanson

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **Welcome Guests!** At today's meeting Rock Island Rotary welcomed new Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School. They are Ryan Hodge and Mallory Hillman. Also a club guest was Judy Nordquist attending with hubby Jim Nordquist to accept the Paul Harris Fellow Award for their daughter, Jamie. Our visiting Rotarian guest was Paul Johnson, a member of the Davenport Rotary Club. Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!

□ **BIZ TOWN** – The final training for Biz Town volunteers will be at 5pm on February 9th in the Biz Town Center in Davenport. The Biz Town Rotary event will be on March 3rd. To help you must attend training.

□ **MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** – Saturday January 28th is the date of our next service project. Rotarians are needed at the 2nd Baptist Church in Rock Island from 10:00 until about 1:30pm. If you can't give the entire time, come for what you can! Our job will be to help patrons get food parcels to their cars. Rotary is the sponsor of the Mobile Food Pantry, so the ball is in our court. 40 volunteers will be needed so make it a family affair and bring your spouse, family members, and friends. The only requirement is the strength to carry groceries or pull a wagon from the Church to cars.

□ **DUELING PIANOS** is back! Mark your calendar, Thursday, March 9th 6-10pm at the River Music Experience. Food, fun, and fellowship will be in abundance at our 2nd Annual major event fundraiser. Tickets are available now on EVENTBRITE.COM, \$45 standing and \$60 for guaranteed seating.

□ **NEXT FELLOWSHIP OF WINING ROTARIANS** social event will be in early April. More details will follow in the future. Thanks to all who attended on January 5th.

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

Foundation Minute

Neal Beard is a member of the Rotary Club of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. For the past eleven years, he traveled to Honduras with many other Rotarians to help with numerous Rotary humanitarian projects in the southwestern part of Honduras near the Pacific Ocean and in the mountains along the Nicaraguan border.

To reach these projects he had to travel down a long mountain road that connects with the Pan-American Highway. The road leads him to a suspension bridge called the Choluteca Bridge. It was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers between 1935- 1937 and resembles the Golden Gate Bridge. It still exists and controls the flow of traffic from Guatemala to Panama.

According to Rotarian Beard, the bridge serves as a metaphor for the work his club does in Honduras where they try to be a bridge between the advances and prosperity that are enjoyed in the United States and the less advanced conditions and poverty that lies on the other side of the bridge.

For Beard, it is like traveling back in time about 50 years. It reminds him of the poverty and conditions of his early childhood when some homes did not have electricity. -when they had to rely on the charity of others, when most of their clothes were used and given to them - a time when his family raised most of their food, milked cows, slopped hogs and raised chickens - a time when although they were happy they did not know about the prosperity that many enjoyed beyond their kin.

Helping people of Honduras have a better, healthier life is rewarding to him; it is a way of going back and helping those similar to those individuals of his youth. He states "You can't pay back all the people who helped you become who you are, but you can pay it forward and help others – that is the reward of Rotary's humanitarian service in our world."

Your contribution to the Rotary Foundation allows this to happen.

A ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SUCCESS STORY



Last summer our club made a major contribution of \$7,200 to help fund the Spring Forward Learning Center's 2016 Summer Enrichment Initiative [SEI]. The mission of the SEI is to bridge summer learning loss by providing high quality programming at camps throughout Rock Island and Milan. Camps were held at five sites including Frances Willard School, Rock Island Academy, Thomas Jefferson School, Center for Math and Science, and the Martin Luther King Center. 384 children in grades kindergarten through 6th grade attended the Monday through Friday camp from June 13th to July 22nd.

The goal was to have every child read a minimum of 45 minutes per day, provide enrichment activities including learning opportunity field trips to Putnam Museum, Figge Art Museum, Deere Wiman House, Buffalo Bill Museum, Niabi Zoo, St. Mary's Monastery, Hennepin Canal, Whitewater Junction, Milan Spray Ground, and Rock Island's Schwiebert Park. In addition, breakfast and lunch for campers was provided for the campers.

The real success of any project lies in results. As they say, "The proof is in the pudding". Campers were tested at the beginning and again at the conclusion of the camp. Remember, the goal was to prevent learning loss over the summer. The final testing showed that 88.9% of the attendees maintained or gained in their reading level. The exciting results showed that 37.17% actually gained! Only 11% showed a drop in reading level over the summer months. The best results were at the Martin Luther King Center where 94.62% maintained or gained in their reading level.



Rock Island Rotary can take great pride in our participation in this program funding in part directly by our club and a Rotary District 6420 matching grant obtained by our Club.



Campers and teachers from one of the 5 SEI camps take a moment to pose for a group photo.

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

Taken from an article by Steve Garret, District Governor 1994-1995

24 – THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

In view of the annual turnover of Rotary leadership each year, special effort is required to provide the 27,000 club leaders with appropriate instruction for the tasks they will assume. The annual district assembly is the major leadership training event in each Rotary district of the world.

The district assembly offers motivation, inspiration, Rotary information and new ideas for club officers, directors and key committee chairmen of each club. Some of the most experienced district leaders conduct informative discussions on all phases of Rotary administration and service projects. The assembly gives all participants valuable new ideas to make their club more effective and interesting. Usually eight to ten delegates from each club are invited to attend the training session.

Another important feature of a district assembly is a review by the incoming district governor of the program theme and emphasis of the new RI president for the coming year. District goals and objects are also described and plans are developed for their implementation.

The success of each Rotary club is frequently determined by the club's full representation and participation in the annual district assembly.

We'll follow up with more of the 50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary in future issues.

HAPPY 90th FRED HOULTON!

Today marked the celebration of Fred's 90th birthday. Not only did the club serenade Fred with a chorus of "Happy Birthday", but he was also served his very own, candle topped cake! Fred served as our President in 1970-71, received the A. T. Peara Service Above Self Award in 1984, and was our District Governor in 1985-86. Most of all though, he's a great guy and began his Rotary membership in 1963. His record of 52+ years of perfect attendance grows with each new birthday!



A surprised Fred receives his birthday cake.



Fred makes short work of the candles



A high school Jr. Rotarian gets a Kick out of Fred's "youthful" enthusiasm!!

WELCOME BACK FATHER MIRABELLI!



Father Mirabelli introduces His new Alleman Jr. Rotarians.

The Club was excited to see the return of Father Dan Mirabelli after fighting (and winning) a lengthy health battle. Father exhibited his usual modesty in thanking the club for the many cards, letters, and prayers sent his way.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today our raffle featured cash and 2 bottles of Lo Milani's finest wine! Christy Filby was our first winner and she took wine. Bud Phillis had the 2nd ticket and he grabbed the cash! Lucky Fred Luckenbill held the 3rd winner and he took home wine to share with Nancy! (We hope)



HANSON BIRTHDAY BOOKS!

Our next date for handing out books to Hanson's January birthday kids is **Thursday, January 25th at 2:30**. Help is needed!! Stop by and have a fun 30 minutes with the kids!